

*Ann Comp of Int*

Chadderton Urban District Council.

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

—❖❖❖ 1897. ❖❖❖—

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GEORGE TAYLOR,

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.

TOWN HALL, CHADDERTON,

MARCH, 1898.

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Area in statute acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,080
Population (Census) 1891	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,087
Population (estimated) 1897	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,000
Births Registered during 1897	{		Males, 316	}	Total		668
	{		Females 352				
Deaths Registered	{		Males, 222	}	Total		451
	{		Females 229				
Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	26·5
Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	18·6
Infantile Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	191
Zymotic Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	2·2

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.



To the Chairman and Members of the Chadderton Urban District  
Council.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1897 451 deaths were registered in Chadderton—222 males and 229 females; and 15 Chadderton persons died in the Workhouse.

The death rate (corrected) was 18·6 per thousand of the population, roughly estimated at 25,000.

The death rates for the preceding five years were 20, 18·7, 19, 19·1, 18·7,

The number of births registered in the year was—boys, 316; girls, 352; total 668—a decrease of 53 on the previous year. The birth rate equals 26·5 per thousand of the population.

The natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths was 217, but owing to the building of many new houses, and the consequent immigration from other districts, I estimate the real increase of population at a considerably higher figure.

The deaths amongst infants under the age of 1 year numbered 128, and the rate of infantile mortality—*i.e.*, the number of deaths at ages under 1 year per thousand births was 191—a rather high figure.

The following table gives the causes of death at all ages :—

Zymotic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Diarrhœa	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Phthisis	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Other Scrofulous diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	98
Heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Diseases of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
„ Digestive	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
„ Urinary	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Deaths by violence	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
All other diseases and old age	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Total							451

The deaths from the principal zymotics during the last five years were as follows :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Smallpox	17	0	3	0	0
Scarlet Fever	11	2	1	11	1
Diphtheria	2	2	6	2	2
Typhoid Fever	2	5	1	0	3
Measles	9	19	6	11	18
Whooping Cough	8	14	12	19	10
Diarrhœa	16	4	13	9	23
Total	65	46	42	52	57
Zymotic Death Rate	2.8	1.9	1.7	2.1	2.2



## REPORTS OF INFECTION.

The following table gives the infectious cases reported to the Medical Officer during the last five years:—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Smallpox .. .. .	171	14	13	2	0
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	92	61	32	172	55
Diphtheria .. .. .	5	4	15	21	17
Typhoid Fever .. .. .	7	25	6	5	17
Total.. .. .	275	104	66	200	89

Three cases of Puerperal Fever were also notified.

The cases were distributed as follows:—

	North Ward.	Central Ward	South Ward.
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	26	21	8
Diphtheria .. .. .	9	7	1
Typhoid Fever .. .. .	5	7	5

SCARLET FEVER was present all through the year. The total number of cases, however, only amounting to one-third of the number reported in the previous year, and only causing one death against eleven in 1896.

DIPHTHERIA prevailed mostly in the first quarter, the district during the last four months being entirely free from this disease. Four of the cases were notified on the same day, in one house, the reason of this no doubt being that the first cases were of a mild character, and regarded as ordinary sore throat. I hope the Council will take advantage of the improved methods of bacteriological diagnosis offered by the Physiological Laboratory at Owen's College in the case of Enteric Fever and Diphtheria.

TYPHOID FEVER. The houses where this disease occurred were all visited, and an endeavour made to get at the source of infection. In some cases the filthy condition of the house seemed sufficient cause, and in two instances a previous case in the same house gave rise to the outbreak.

SMALLPOX, I am glad to say, did not pay us a visit last year.

MEASLES gave some trouble in the summer months, and again towards the end of the year. The infant department of Christ Church School was closed from June 1st to 14th; Bourne Street School from July 16th to August 6th; and Corpus Christi School from July 29th to August 19th, owing to a Measles epidemic amongst the Scholars. The epidemic passed over the district from South to North, beginning in Hollinwood in summer and only reaching North Ward late in the year. The Masters of the various Schools have supplied me with weekly lists of the names and addresses of the absentees from Measles and Whooping Cough, and these have been of considerable service in determining the extent and locality of epidemics, and the necessity, or otherwise, of closing the schools.

DIARRHŒA, including GASTRO-ENTERITIS, caused 23 deaths, all in August, September, and October. I have no doubt that many cases of Summer Diarrhœa could be prevented by more care in diet at that time of year, and by boiling all milk before using, as well as by using the most scrupulous cleanliness with regard to all vessels used to contain milk and other articles of food.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE DISTRICT.—The district is mostly supplied with water from the Oldham Corporation, but there are still a few wells supplying farms and houses in isolated parts of the Township. As some cases of sickness were attributed to drinking from one of these wells, I analysed the water and found that it was contaminated with iron to



the extent of .52 grains per gallon, from the old iron pipes in which it is conveyed to the houses. It was, however, free from organic impurities.

An analysis of a sample of water from a well at Street-bridge showed that it was contaminated with vegetable matter to an extent which rendered it unfit for drinking, and as chlorine is present to the extent of 3 grains per gallon the well should be closed and Corporation water supplied instead, or another well constructed.

Some of the Factories in the district have been inspected with regard to sanitary conveniences, and in one case—that of a large mill employing over 1000 hands—the privy accommodation was found to be in such a shocking condition that a complete alteration was ordered, and willingly carried out by the millowner.

The new Sewage Works at Slacks Valley are now nearly completed, and I hope when that is the case, that all the houses which are at present not joined to the sewers will be connected without delay.

All the Dairy Farms in the Township have been visited during the past year, and the shippons have been measured. Although the lowest limit of cubic space allowed per head of cattle is 800 cubic feet, the average of the shippons is only 508 cubic feet, and many of them are far below this in cubic space. The Council have ordered that this must be rectified by reducing the number of cows kept, or building fresh cow-houses, and I hope to be able to report a better condition of things in my next annual report.

I am,

Yours obediently,

H. ASHTON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1897, in the Urban Sanitary District of Chadderton,  
Classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Localities.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.							Aged under 5 or over 5.	Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.															
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Influenza.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Chadderton.	451	128	17	22	24	148	62	{ Under 5 .. 5 upwards	..	1	2	3	..	3	16	10	20	1	1	52	..	2	90	195
Cinder Hill Hospital..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	{ Under 5 .. 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	256
Totals....	451	128	17	22	24	148	62	{ Under 5 .. 5 upwards	..	1	2	3	..	3	16	10	20	1	1	52	..	2	90	195
									..	1	2	..	3	3	2	..	3	3	30	46	35	14	114	256

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	15	1	2	..	1	4	7	5 upwards.	In Oldham Union Workhouse .....	15
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Under 5 ..	In Cinder Hill Hospital.....	..











